49. Administrative Reforms.

MR. JOHN JACOB (*Tiruvalla taluk, Group II*) said that the most important factor in the administration of the State was the question of recruitment to public service. The present system of making appointments formed the subject of much criticism. But the member hoped that with the appointment of the committee to go into the question, mentioned in the Dewan's address, the problem would be satisfactorily solved and he thanked the Government for the same.

The member next said that there was inordinate delay on the part of Government in tackling important questions, resulting in loss and hardship to the people. This was mainly because the Dewan had to look into even minute things. The delegation of powers to officers was not sufficient. The formation of an Executive Council would solve the difficulty to a great deal. An Executive Council, responsible to the Legislature, should be constituted.

The member next referred to the desirability of establishing a Publicity department, with a view to remove the misunderstandings that arose between the Government and the people. The existing Press Room was not serving any useful purpose. The Publicity department should be placed under the control of a senior Secretary.

The Government should see that the officers did their circuiting work in such a way as to be of use to the people. Each officer should be required to halt at each place for two or three days at least to, find out the grievances of the people. The circuit programme should be sent in advance to the members of the Legislative Council and of the Assembly, representing the locality.

An efficient Finance department, under an independent Financial Secretary should be organised. Accounts and finance should be separated.

There should be a consistent policy in the reorganisation of departments.

The Sanitary department should be reorganised. The first Vaccine Superintendent, who had only thirty Vaccinators under him, was given a pay of Rs. 600 per mensem. But the present Sanitary Commissioner, who had under him 120 Vaccinators, 48 conservancy stations and 11 Circle Officers was started only on Rs. 300. The salary of the Sanitary Commissioner should be enhanced. The jurisdiction of the Sanitary Circle Officers should be widened and in important taluks, Group Inspectors should be appointed. Vaccination should be made compulsory in rural areas also. Sufficient number of wells should be sunk in the sea coast and in places where there was scarcity of water. The number of minor conservancy stations should be substantially increased. The major conservancy stations should be left to the control of the Village Panchayats. The market sweepers should be placed under the control of the Sanitary department. The Sanitary Circle Officers should be made *ex-officio* members of the Municipalities.

The Sanitary Commissioner should conduct visits and inspections throughout the State at least twice every year. To relieve him of his office work, the Vaccine Depot Superintendent should be made *ex-officio* Personal Assistant to the Commissioner and the Head Clerk of the office should be invested with the powers of an Office Manager. A Village Sanitary Act should be enacted and brought into force. The pay of the subordinate staff should be enhanced and the minimum pay should not be less than Rs. 20 per mensem. The Government should not entirely depend upon the Rockefeller Foundation scheme which required much time and funds to be brought into operation.

The pay and prospects of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Medical department should be improved. They should be given a pay of Rs. 50-100, with time-scale. These officers should be empowered to issue health and age certificates also, as they were now issuing post-mortem certificates.

The Co-operative department received only a step-motherly treatment at the hands of the Government. To make the department more useful, the number of Inspectors should be increased and their pay should be raised to Rs. 60-125, as in the case of other departments. The post of Assistant Registrars should be created and four Assistant Registrars should be appointed. The Registrar should be given the pay and status of a senior Dewan Peishkar.

The Irrigation department should be placed under the control of the Land Revenue department. One of the Executive Engineers, with the required staff, should be put in charge of it, under the Land Revenue Commissioner.

DEWAN'S REPLY: The points that you have raised in your representation will receive the consideration of Government, and they will all be noted and considered.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-10 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. the next day.